



LANCHESTER E.P. (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Weekly Bulletin 1 – Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all so much for your great support this week in helping to keep everyone safe. The children came into school better than we could ever have imagined and whilst there are still a few teething problems which we will refine over the next few weeks, our new organisation appeared to go fairly smoothly!

I realise the children were all very keen to be in school in good time today but it would be incredibly helpful if you did not arrive earlier than your allotted time – just to ensure that everything goes as smoothly as possible and we all remain safe. Thank you so much!

Weekly letters

Weekly letters, with information regarding events the following week as well as important reminders, are written every Friday. These will be emailed or sent via the eSchools app. Therefore, it is really important that new parents download the eSchools app and ensure we have your email address. These letters contain all the information you need on a weekly basis (and take hours to write!) as well as sharing important information. These are also all uploaded to our School website (<https://lancaster.eschools.co.uk/website>) under the 'Letters Home' tab.

School Twitter Account

We have a very active Twitter account which we use primarily to let you know what your child has been doing during the day, but also to send out reminders and messages to parents. We know how keen you are to find out what your child has been up to each day and when you ask them, they invariably say, 'nothing!' Now, you can have a very small insight into what is taking place in the classroom on a daily basis and will know exactly what your child does as all teachers will be regularly tweeting! Please follow us at: @LancasterEP

New Parents

All our new parents will receive their ParentPay log ins and eSchools accounts next week. Please make sure you access eSchools as soon as possible as in the event of any future lockdown or need for home-schooling, this will be a necessity!

ParentPay

Please can all parents and carers check their ParentPay accounts and clear any outstanding debts from last year – thank you.

Year 5 & 6 Children Walking Home

Parents of Year 5 & 6 children should have received a link to the form asking you to complete it if your child walks to and from school independently. Please complete this by Monday. If you have not received the link, please contact school.office@lancchesterep.net so the Office Staff can make sure we have the correct email address for you. Thank you.

Medication in School

If your child needs medication in school at any time, please remember that we can only give medicine that is prescribed by your GP. We need a medicine form completed in order to allow us to do this. Please go to the following link which will take you to the form to be completed. Any medication will need to be handed to a member of staff on the gate at the start of school and can be collected from your child's class teacher at the end of the school day, or it can be left in school. Thank you for your help. Please see the link below for the form:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bpIIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-
jtJlwJv4jHiabNUREI5OUVaV1U5OFNYVERIUjNLOUFRWjBXQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bpIIJ4QL0zqlc1nsZ-jtJlwJv4jHiabNUREI5OUVaV1U5OFNYVERIUjNLOUFRWjBXQi4u)

Contact Details

It is essential that all contact details are kept up to date in school. Please email the office with any changes to addresses, phone numbers or email addresses. It was evident during lockdown how imperative it was that these details were correct.

Dinner Money

School meals are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. However, please remember that when children are in Year 3, meals need to be paid for unless your child is eligible for free school meals (in which case you need to contact the school office to complete the relevant paperwork). Dinners are £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week and must be paid at least one week in advance via ParentPay. If you require log in details for ParentPay, please contact the office. If your child is new to the school, you will get ParentPay log in details next week, so don't worry about this.

Changing from Dinners to Packed Lunches

We are currently offering a reduced menu for school dinners. This will remain in place until October half term after which the new full winter menu will be available. By then, it is also hoped that lunches will be eaten in the hall again.

However, we have an increasing number of children who swap regularly to and from dinners to packed lunches. With ever-increasing numbers, it is now essential to give **ONE MONTH'S** notice of an intended change from dinner to packed lunch or vice versa. In addition to this, there will be a deadline in each half term after which no changes can be made. The final date for any changes to be made this half term will be Friday 24th September.

Water Bottles

We have re-visited our risk assessment and have made some changes to access to water for children in Years 1 – 6. All children in these year groups have been given a water bottle. These water bottles need to be brought home each day so they can be washed and re-filled at home and brought back to school the following day. Obviously in the past, we have always stored the water bottles in school and re-filled them for the children or allowed them to re-fill them independently.

However, the recommendations have changed and now, the safest way to ensure the best hygiene possible is for these to be brought to and from school every day. It will be essential that these are not forgotten though. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Swimming

We have been informed by the local authority that swimming lessons will not resume this term. It is hoped that they will begin again from January but will inform you as soon as any further information is shared around this.

P. E. Days for Year 5 & 6

Year 5 & 6 children are to come to school in their P.E. kits on their P.E. days as mentioned in last week's letter. Year 5 need to wear their P.E. uniform every Monday and Wednesday while Year 6 will need to wear their P.E. uniform every Wednesday and Thursday. Children in Years 1 – 6 should bring their P.E. kits into school and leave them in school for the half term.

Pirate Ron with Year 2 on Wednesday 9th September

Our Year 2 children have embarked upon their 'Land Ahoy' topic for this half term and they are very fortunate to be welcoming Pirate Ron to school on Wednesday 9th September. In the morning he will be working with the children in his pirate ship and in the afternoon they will be making model pirate hand puppets! I am sure this will be another memorable day for all involved.

Juice Fund

For a number of years, we have asked for 50p donation per child per week for our Juice Fund. This fund serves two purposes. The first is that it is a way for us to cover some of the additional and increasing costs that we face in order to provide your children with all the treats and 'extras' during the term. The second is that it provides the children with a relaxing 'chill out' session once a week with their class. We intend to provide all children with juice and a biscuit on a Friday afternoon whilst spending time 'chilling' with their peers. All classes will be enjoying some quality time with their peers on a Friday afternoon with a glass of juice and a biscuit. Thank you for supporting us in this way. Please make your payment of £3.50 on ParentPay. Thank you.

Mr Graham's Saturday Morning Football Club

Mr. Graham's Saturday morning football starts up again tomorrow. Both sessions will be outdoor and please remember that there are no toilet facilities. Reception – Year 2 age group is from 9am – 10am and Year 3 – Year 6 is between 10am and 11am. If you are interested in coming and want any more information you can contact him by email at: lewisgraham91@hotmail.co.uk

Advance Notices

Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 15th September at 4pm and 4.30pm

This has become a regular event and one which is welcomed by many parents. It allows parents and carers to meet your child's new teacher and teaching assistant, see their learning environment, hear about their routines and timetable and also ask any questions you have.

On Tuesday 15th September, straight after school, you will have the opportunity to get to know your child's new class teacher a little better and attend our virtual 'Meet the Teacher' sessions after school. The meetings will last for about 15-20 minutes and this year, will take place on Zoom. The teachers will be sharing information about the timetable and topics for their class, as well as giving you the chance to 'see' your child's classroom and ask any questions you might have. The meetings take place at 4pm and 4.30 pm – that way, if you have children in different classes, you will still be able to attend both meetings.

The link will be emailed to you about an hour before the meetings are due to take place.

What to do if your child presents with COVID symptoms

We have received further advice from Public Health England just yesterday which we have been asked to share with all parents and carers. Please read this very carefully.

If your child develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should **STAY AT HOME**. Call school at once and notify us. However, if they develop symptoms at school, they will be sent home.

Anyone with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days and book a test. This can be done by calling 119 or through the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. The rest of the household needs to stay at home for 14 days to self-isolate.

All children attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of COVID-19 and are **encouraged to get tested**.

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

Any pupil who develops any of the above symptoms should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

Children may feel unwell with a common cold, sore throat, headache or upset stomach. These are not symptoms and therefore a test is not required and self-isolation is not required.

Once the test has been taken, if the test is negative, all isolation ends and the child and the household can return to school and work.

If the test is positive, the child remains in isolation alongside their family and the latest government guidance will need to be followed. The social group for that child or staff member will be contacted and we will engage with PHE and Test and Trace.

Early Years News (Nursery and Reception)

We have enjoyed meeting all our new Nursery and Reception children this week and hope that they have come home from their visits feeling excited about their new start with us.

Lots of you have asked about bringing a bag to Nursery and Reception. We do still encourage you to bring a drawstring bag of spare clothes to leave on your child's peg in case they need to change. We will send these bags home to be replenished if your child has needed to use the spare clothes. It is a good idea to

include several pairs of socks as these are the clothing item most likely to get wet through water play/changing into wellies etc. and we are constantly running out of spares. As always, please label as many of your child's clothes as possible as they do get mixed up and are impossible to reunite with their owner without a name! Please think of us before you clear out socks which no longer fit your child - donations for our spares box are very, very welcome!

By now you should all have had a welcome email from Evidence Me, our online platform for EYFS. If you haven't received this, please let your child's teacher know. Thank you to the parents who have already responded to the first message sent out by their child's teacher. If you need any help uploading to the platform, please go to the Help Centre for further information <http://help.evidence.me/evidence-me-help-for-parents/>

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher